



Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service
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COUNTY ESTIMATES

All Cattle and Calves and Beef Cows

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This report continues the livestock county estimates data series for all cattle and beef cows which was resumed in 2001 after being suspended in 1987. Data for this report is obtained from the National January 1 Cattle Inventory Survey supplemented by the Livestock County Estimates Survey which was mailed to all cattle operations in the state that had not been included in the National survey. In addition, data from the early returns to the 2002 Census of Agriculture was also used for those operations that completed a census questionnaire but did not respond to the mailed Livestock County Estimates Survey.

Dry conditions across many areas of the state for the past few years reached extreme drought levels during 2002 and resulted in considerable movement of cattle to other areas of the country that had more favorable grazing conditions. Herd reductions and/or complete liquidations were active during the summer months. This was reflected in the state's total cattle inventory as of January 1, 2003 which was down 13 percent from the previous year to 2,650,000 head. The beef cow inventory, at 702,000 head as of January 1, 2003, was down 12 percent from a year earlier. Various government and private sector livestock assistance programs were implemented which enabled some producers to retain more of their animals than they could have without the assistance.

Weld County with 635,000 head of all cattle and calves on hand as of January 1, 2003 was the leading cattle county in the state with 24 percent of the state's total inventory of 2.65 million head of all cattle and calves. The county has a number of large commercial feedlots and large dairy operations which contribute to the leading cattle county ranking. Weld county had the second largest number of beef cows, which are included in the all cattle total. The 48,000 head of beef cows represented nearly 7 percent of the state's total beef cow inventory of 702,000 head.

Yuma County ranked second with an all cattle and calf inventory of 270,000 head. Like Weld County, Yuma County also has some large commercial feedlots and dairy operations. Yuma County, with 55,000 head, had the state's largest inventory of beef cows. **Logan County** and **Morgan County**, two other large cattle feeding and dairy areas each had an all cattle inventory of 230,000 head as of January 1, 2003, placing them into a tie for being the third largest cattle county in the state. The total inventory in Logan County included 30,000 head of beef cows which was enough to also claim a third place ranking in the number of beef cows. Morgan County's 21,000 head of beef cows ranked eleventh in the state. **Kit Carson County**, another large cattle feeding county, placed fifth in all cattle and calves with 130,000 head but the inventory of 26,000 head of beef cows ranked fourth in the state.

Prowers County, with 114,000 head, was the only other county in the state with 100,000 or more cattle and calves and was the sixth largest cattle county in the state. That county also has a large number of cattle in feedlots. Prowers County had just 17,500 head of beef cows, ranking well down in the range of many other counties. The counties of **Otero** (69,000 head), **Larimer** (60,000 head), **Baca** (57,000 head) and **Bent** (48,000 head) complete the list of the top ten counties in the state for all cattle and calves.

The January 1, 2003 inventory in the top ten counties totaled 1,843,000 head of all cattle and calves and represented nearly 70 percent of the total cattle inventory in the state. The top ten counties with beef cows had a combined inventory of 302,500 head, representing 43 percent of the state's total inventory of 702,000 head. Following Yuma County, Weld County, Logan County and Kit Carson County which claimed the top four positions, respectfully were: **Lincoln County** and **Las Animas County**, each with 26,000 head; **Elbert County**, 24,000 head; **Mesa County**, 23,500 head; **Baca County** and **Montrose County**, each with 22,000 head.

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All Cattle and Calves and Beef Cows: Inventory by county and district, Colorado						
County and District	All cattle and calves			Beef cows that have calved		
	January 1, 2001	January 1, 2002	January 1, 2003	January 1, 2001	January 1, 2002	January 1, 2003
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chaffee	10,000	6,500	7,000	5,400	4,000	4,000
Clear Creek . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eagle	13,000	6,500	5,500	6,400	5,000	4,000
Gilpin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand	23,500	10,000	10,000	9,000	7,000	6,000
Gunnison	28,000	20,000	16,000	15,000	11,000	9,000
Jackson	44,000	30,000	24,000	24,000	18,000	14,000
Lake	1,500	1,000	500	700	700	300
Moffat	39,000	27,000	25,000	19,000	15,000	20,000
Park	12,000	7,500	5,000	5,400	4,800	3,500
Pitkin	3,500	3,000	3,000	1,300	1,300	1,500
Rio Blanco	29,000	18,000	25,000	18,000	13,000	17,500
Routt	40,000	25,000	25,000	18,000	13,000	13,000
Summit	2,500	2,000	2,000	1,400	1,000	1,000
Teller	4,000	3,500	2,000	1,400	1,200	1,200
NW & Mountain	250,000	160,000	150,000	125,000	95,000	95,000
Boulder	12,000	13,000	11,000	5,000	4,500	4,000
Jefferson	5,000	5,000	3,000	3,000	2,500	1,500
Larimer	65,000	57,000	60,000	15,000	13,000	11,000
Logan	200,000	250,000	230,000	29,000	30,000	30,000
Morgan	240,000	250,000	230,000	20,000	20,000	21,000
Sedgwick	23,000	25,000	26,000	5,000	5,000	4,500
Weld	645,000	750,000	635,000	58,000	65,000	48,000
Northeast	1,190,000	1,350,000	1,195,000	135,000	140,000	120,000
Adams	20,000	18,000	12,000	6,500	6,500	4,500
Arapahoe	10,000	6,000	9,000	6,000	3,800	6,000
Cheyenne	40,000	36,000	22,000	14,500	16,000	12,000
Denver . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Douglas	10,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	2,700	2,500
Elbert	52,000	40,000	35,000	26,000	27,000	24,000
El Paso	45,000	35,000	22,000	22,000	23,000	15,000
Kiowa	25,000	15,000	12,000	12,500	13,000	7,500
Kit Carson	145,000	145,000	130,000	25,000	27,000	26,000
Lincoln	63,000	45,000	36,000	27,000	29,000	26,000
Phillips	55,000	50,000	43,000	5,500	5,000	7,500
Washington	65,000	45,000	40,000	22,000	23,000	19,000
Yuma	250,000	260,000	270,000	38,000	39,000	55,000
East Central	780,000	700,000	635,000	210,000	215,000	205,000
Archuleta	13,000	8,000	5,000	4,000	3,500	3,200
Delta	43,000	40,000	37,000	21,000	20,000	19,000
Dolores	6,800	4,000	2,500	4,000	2,400	2,000
Garfield	32,000	20,000	16,000	18,000	14,000	11,000
Hinsdale	1,200	1,000	500	600	600	300
La Plata	28,000	20,000	16,000	14,000	12,000	10,000
Mesa	54,000	40,000	38,000	28,000	27,000	23,500
Montezuma	24,000	19,000	15,500	17,000	14,500	11,000
Montrose	50,000	55,000	48,000	23,000	27,000	22,000
Ouray	9,000	9,000	7,500	6,200	6,500	5,500
San Juan . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Miguel	9,000	4,000	4,000	4,200	2,500	2,500
Southwest	270,000	220,000	190,000	140,000	130,000	110,000
Alamosa	11,000	9,000	7,500	8,000	7,200	5,000
Conejos	33,000	25,000	21,000	20,000	18,000	13,500
Costilla	8,500	6,000	6,000	6,200	4,000	3,500
Mineral	500	400	500	300	300	200
Rio Grande	15,500	14,600	13,000	10,500	10,000	8,000
Saguache	31,500	25,000	22,000	15,000	14,500	11,800
San Luis Valley	100,000	80,000	70,000	60,000	54,000	42,000
Baca	70,000	60,000	57,000	22,000	21,000	22,000
Bent	57,000	50,000	48,000	20,000	19,000	16,000
Crowley	67,000	70,000	36,000	10,000	10,000	8,000
Custer	11,000	10,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	2,000
Fremont	15,000	15,000	10,000	8,000	8,000	5,000
Huerfano	26,000	20,000	14,000	15,000	13,000	9,000
Las Animas	68,000	50,000	35,000	35,000	32,000	26,000
Otero	83,000	100,000	69,000	16,000	17,000	15,000
Prowers	113,000	120,000	114,000	18,000	19,000	17,500
Pueblo	50,000	45,000	23,000	21,000	21,000	9,500
Southeast	560,000	540,000	410,000	170,000	165,000	130,000
State Total	3,150,000	3,050,000	2,650,000	840,000	799,000	702,000